

**CITY OF NEWPORT, KY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 28, 2022, 7:00 PM
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Guidugli, on Monday, February 28, 2022, 7:00 PM. Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic concerns, this meeting was held virtually in conjunction with a live Facebook stream. The public had access to the live stream meeting through the City of Newport, KY Facebook Page Facebook.com/CityofNewportKY.

In Attendance:

Mayor Thomas L. Guidugli Jr., Vice Mayor Frank Peluso, Commissioner Beth Fennell, Commissioner Jerry Peluso, Commissioner Ken Rehtin.

Others Present:

City Manager Thomas Fromme, Assistant City Manager John Hayden, City Attorney Dan Braun, City Clerk Janie Patterson, Chief of Police Christopher Fangman, Chief of Fire/EMS Frank Peluso, Finance Director Lenny Kuntz.

PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, PROCLAMATIONS

- Tree Pruning Schedule & It's Importance: Rachel Comte, Urban Canopy Works LLC Arborist
 - City Arborist Rachel Comte gave a presentation about Newport's proactive tree care approach and explained the benefits. Information and FAQs are provided on the Newport City website.
- FY 2021 Audit Presentation: Heather Cochran
 - Heather Cochran gave a presentation that reviewed FY 2021 audit results. Information will be made available on the City website.
 - Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr. – Commented we carry a very small debt loan compared to surrounding cities. Also, in the evaluation of revenues there is not any sales tax, because we get zero dollars in sales tax. Most of Newport's revenues come from payroll taxes which can be a challenge.
 - City Manager Thomas Fromme – Commented Newport does not get sales tax revenue and our residents do not reap the benefits.

PERSONNEL ORDERS

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-010

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY, APPOINTING SCOTT C. KOHRS TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF IN THE NEWPORT FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Order R-2022-010; Commissioner Jerry Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rehtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-011

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY, PROMOTING LIEUTENANT MATTHEW J. SILVATI TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN IN THE NEWPORT FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Order R-2022-011; Commissioner Jerry Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rehtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

- During the Facebook live stream, various written comments and questions were posted on the City of Newport KY Facebook page in the comments section.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting Minutes January 24, 2022

Commissioner Ken Rehtin made a motion to approve the minutes; Vice Mayor Frank Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rehtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-012

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY DECLARING CERTAIN PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE LAW

Comments/Discussion

- Items will be auctioned off on the website govdeals.com. It will be communicated on social media and the City website when items are up for bid

Commissioner Ken Rehtin made a motion to approve Order R-2022-0012; Commissioner Jerry Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rehtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-013

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY APPOINTING LAUREN O'BRIEN AS AN ALTERNATE FROM THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY TO THE OHIO-KENTUCKY-INDIANA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Comments/Discussion

- Commissioner Beth Fennell – Commented Lauren O'Brien is up to speed with how OKI works and thinks she will be a great asset.

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Order R-2022-013; Commissioner Ken Rechtin offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-014

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY REAPPOINTING MARY BETH CROCKER, AND ROBERT INGGULS, AS MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY EACH FOR THE REMAINDER OF A TWO-YEAR TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2023

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Order R-2022-014; Commissioner Jerry Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-015

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY REAPPOINTING ED DAVIS, MIKE KOLB, AND NICK MILLER AS MEMBERS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY EACH FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024

Vice Mayor Frank Peluso made a motion to approve Order R-2022-015; Commissioner Beth Fennell offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-016

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY REAPPOINTING STEVE MATHISEN AND RATIFYING THE APPOINTMENT OF TERRY RASCHE AS THE CITY OF WOODLAWN'S MEMBER OF THE CODE ENFORCEMENT BOARD OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY EACH FOR THE REMAINDER OF A THREE-YEAR TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Order R-2022-016; Vice Mayor Frank Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rehtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDER R-2022-017

AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY REAPPOINTING RICHARD BUECHEL JR. AND CAROLYN DUFF AS MEMBERS OF THE NEWPORT HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY EACH FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2026

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Order R-2022-017; Commissioner Jerry Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rehtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDINANCE O-2022-001

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY AMENDING SECTION 31.42 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CONCERNING POSITIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Comments/Discussion

- City Manager Thomas Fromme – Commented the next three Ordinances on the agenda are to make internal changes within various departments, subject to change.

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Ordinance O-2022-001; Commissioner Jerry Peluso offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr. Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDINANCE O-2022-002

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY AMENDING SECTION 31.43 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES CONCERNING PERSONNEL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Vice Mayor Frank Peluso made a motion to approve Ordinance O-2022-002; Commissioner Beth Fennell offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr. Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

COMMISSIONERS ORDINANCE O-2022-003

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT, KENTUCKY AMENDING SECTION 31.46 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES REGARDING POSITIONS WITHIN THE CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Beth Fennell made a motion to approve Ordinance O-2022-003; Commissioner Ken Rechtin offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr. Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Fire/EMS Chief Frank Peluso – Thanked City Manager, Mayor, and the Board for their continued support.
- Finance Director Lenny Kuntz – Commented there will be a transition from audit season to budget season, and he will send out a communication to Department Heads to start scheduling budget meetings to work on amended 2022, and he would like to do a budget forecasting of 2024/2025.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

- City Manager Thomas Fromme – Commented we will go back to in person meetings in March, and we will recognize our appointed and promoted Fire/EMS Personnel. He thinks this year will be a good year for Newport.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

- Commissioner Jerry Peluso – Reminded everyone to know when their street sweeping is scheduled and to move vehicles off the streets to allow the operator to be able to easily move down streets and do a better job.
- Vice Mayor Peluso
 - Thanked all the individuals who were appointed and reappointed to various City Boards & Committees.
 - Scheduled street sweeping is available on the City website and on the E-Newsletter that Bev Holiday sends out. He would like a program developed to allow residents on the South Side of Newport to know when street sweeping will take place.
- Commissioner Ken Rehtin
 - Commented he would like to see more people attend meetings and continue to be involved in active Civic engagement.
 - He expressed his prayers for the people in Ukraine and the right to vote for their own government and for Democracy.
- Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.
 - Commented a prayer meeting was held at the Peace Bell and gatherings will continue in an effort to support world peace and calm the tension.
 - People who are interested in serving on a Board or Committee can find information on the City website.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jerry Peluso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM;
Commissioner Beth Fennel offered a second to the motion. The Mayor called for a vote:

Commissioner Beth Fennell	Yes
Commissioner Jerry Peluso	Yes
Commissioner Ken Rechtin	Yes
Vice Mayor Frank Peluso	Yes
Mayor Thomas Guidugli Jr.	Yes

Motion Carried 5-0

3-28-2022

Date Approved/Signed

Thomas L. Guidugli Jr.

THOMAS L. GUIDUGLI JR., MAYOR

ATTEST:

Janie Patterson

JANIE PATTERSON, CITY CLERK